

2007
National Cooperative Soil Survey Conference
Madison, WI

Co-Chairs: Chris Smith, NRCS, NHQ
Karl Hipple, NRCS, NSSC

Soil Interpretations Committee
Report and Recommendations

Soil Interpretations Committee

Charges - Recommendations

1. Review and document progress from 2006 Regional Conferences

- Recommendations were reviewed and most items have been completed
- Those **not yet** completed are:
 - Gravel source interpretation has been modified and recently circulated to states for testing - anticipated re-release with correction(s) is 8/30/07
 - SNTSC – will continue work on irrigation interpretations, NSSC has agreed to include as a part of suite of Standard Interpretation

Soil Interpretations Committee

Charges - Recommendations

1. Review and document progress from 2006

Regional Conferences - continued

– Those not completed are:

- SNTSC – will continue work on rules and criteria for grassed waterways, diversions, terraces, tile drains and underground outlets, etc. - NSSC will add these to suite of Standard Interpretations when completed
- Web Soil Survey Enhancements
 - Develop a pre-written materials to explain spatial, temporal, and man-induced variability of soil properties for soil survey user. – agronomy tab

Soil Interpretations Committee

Charges - Recommendations

1. Review and document progress from 2006

Regional Conferences - continued

- Those not completed are: DSP Team Issues
 - Develop a brief explanation of soil properties and interpretations most impacted by land use – **DSP group address**
 - Develop aggressive sampling plan for dynamic soil properties for benchmark soils – **DSP group address**
 - Develop a list of soil properties and interpretations that are affected by other properties – **DSP group address**

Soil Interpretations Committee

Charges - Recommendations

1. Review and document progress from 2006 Regional Conferences - continued

– Those not completed are:

- NASIS Issues/Standards

- Propose a change in NASIS data structure to allow multiple soil interpretations per data map unit –

- NSSC**

- Follow up on the South Dakota proposal requesting attributes for soil saturation frequency and duration – piggyback on current proposal addressing flooding and ponding – in review for a NASIS 6.0 release

Soil Interpretations Committee

Charges - Recommendations

- 2a. Identify, document, prioritize and address critical interpretation and technical development issues within NCSS
- Identified 13 items and prioritized them into 3 classes (high, medium, low)

High Priority

- » Provide descriptive class limits for interpretation criteria limits for National and Standard Interpretations for WSS (evaluate CA approach) and provide more descriptive interactive materials on WSS for first time users. Documentation needed for different levels of users (**NSSC**)

Soil Interpretations Committee

Charges - Recommendations

2a. Identify, document, prioritize and address critical interpretation and technical development issues within NCSS

High Priority

- » Include NCSS and local partners while developing interpretations (e.g. sanitary facilities)
- » Link Standard interpretations within FOTG Practice Standards (local interpretations handled through State Tech Guide Committees (**NSSC and NHQ**))

Soil Interpretations Committee

Charges - Recommendations

2a. Identify, document, prioritize and address critical interpretation and technical development issues within NCSS

Medium Priority

- » Recommend Consider inherent fertility interpretations via Fertility Capability Classification system (FCC3) using LIMs and pedon databases (**Chris Smith & NSSC**)
- » Ksat definition misunderstood but Ksat used extensively in soil interpretations. NSSH and field guidance does not match. **NSSC/ARS/Cooperators** need to address.

Soil Interpretations Committee

Charges - Recommendations

2a. Identify, document, prioritize and address critical interpretation and technical development issues within NCSS

Medium Priority

- » Irrigation interpretations need to be completed – assigned and follow up needed. **(NSSC & SNTSC)**
- » Urban Interpretations – expand urban information in WSS **(NSSC)**

Soil Interpretations Committee

Charges - Recommendations

2a. Identify, document, prioritize and address critical interpretation and technical development issues within NCSS

Low Priority

- » Increase ease of navigating to basic information (definitions, explanations, etc.) in WSS (**NSSC**)
- » Address conflicting information on how to describe and record combined horizons (A/2R) in the field and database and NASIS implications (**NSSC**)
- » Re-look at null hedges and interpretation ratings for miscellaneous land unit ratings (**NSSC**)

Soil Interpretations Committee

Charges - Recommendations

2b. Identify opportunities for partnering on investigation, validation, documentation, and delivery of newly developed interpretations within NCSS

- * Develop peer review committee that includes cooperators (**Forward to Director SSD**)
- * Stress distribution of interpretations to cooperators through State Soil Scientists (**SSS**)
- * State Work Planning Conferences – one way to accomplish
- * State SS Program Reviews review validation documentation (**Director SSD**)

Soil Interpretations Committee

Charges - Recommendations

2b. Identify opportunities for partnering on investigation, validation, documentation, and delivery of newly developed interpretations within NCSS

- * SSS provide Cooperators a list of soil interpretations that State is posting to the Web Soil Survey **(SSS)**
- * Consider and provide information of what, how, and where to store interpretation validation information **(NSSC)**
- * Resource Soil Scientists conduct validation as part of duties **(SSS)**

Soil Interpretations Committee

Charges - Recommendations

2c. Identify opportunities for funding interpretation validation studies in soil survey

- * Request line item in Soil Survey Division budget
- * Consider CESU vehicle for funding validation work
- * Prioritize proposals through NCSS Research needs committee (funding availability)
- * Consider graduate studies programs for validation
- * Review and expand validation procedure and distribute to states and cooperators

Soil Interpretations Committee

Charges - Recommendations

2d. Identify coordination and communication protocol with other Standing Committees of the NCSS (Research Priorities, New Technology, Standards and Taxonomy)

- * Use other professional meetings like SSSA, SWCS, etc. to conduct joint Standing Committee meetings
- * Increase and expand communication within NCSS leadership – e.g. SSS Meeting venue

Soil Interpretations Committee

Charges - Recommendations

3. Consider request from Regional Conferences to modify Regional and National Conference by-laws to establish Soil Interpretations Standing Committee – unanimously approved by committee **(Business Meeting item)**
4. Consider request from Southern Conference to create Ad Hoc Committee to address urban/suburban issues and interpretations – unanimously approved by committee **(Business Meeting item)**

Soil Interpretations Committee

Charges - Recommendations

5. Consider request from Southern Conference to create Ad Hoc Committee to develop a preliminary list of subaqueous soil interpretations and criteria needed to derive interpretative ratings
* **Committee Recommends this to Regional Conference Steering Committees)**